

HEALTH EVIDENCE

Many state and local governments rely heavily on US EPA's office of research and development's assessments of hazardous chemicals like the Integrated Science Assessments under the Clean Air Act or the IRIS program for toxics to set their clean up levels for hazardous pollutants like known neurotoxins such as lead and carcinogens such as benzene. The current president's budget targets these scientific functions for large cuts.

Question: How will EPA ensure that adequate health protection that follows the health evidence results for all Americans including vulnerable populations like pregnant women, infants, children, and seniors to protect them from these known and emerging hazards?

Answer: EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) helps EPA, states, local agencies, and tribal nations make smart, informed, and thoroughly-researched decisions to protect people's health. Through IRIS, EPA develops comprehensive, rigorously peer-reviewed scientific assessments. EPA scientists also produce Integrated Science Assessments (ISAs) that accurately and concisely evaluate a large number of peer reviewed publications that reflect the latest and most advanced scientific knowledge. These ISAs, which provide the scientific foundation for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), go through a very rigorous, independent peer review and a public comment period. EPA's Office of Research and Development will continue to conduct ISAs and IRIS assessments as resources allow. EPA will also begin adapting more of the tools developed by our computational toxicology program to increase the efficiency of the risk assessment process.